

STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT

RACIALLY AND ETHNO-NATIONALIST MOTIVATED THREAT LANDSCAPE (REMTL)

PURPOSE

To provide law enforcement with an introduction and overview of the racially and ethno-nationalist motivated threat landscape (REMTL) within Canada.

KEY POINTS

- Racially and ethno-nationalist motivated violent extremism (REMVE) is becoming more prevalent than religiously motivated violent extremism (RMVE) and politically motivated violent extremism (PMVE). In 2019-2020, 51% of the RCMP's Ideologically Motivated Violent Extremism (IMVE) investigative files fell into the REMVE category.
- The strategy of "accelerationism" is the most concerning ideology amongst REMVE networks as it is inherently violent and promotes lone actor attacks to hasten what adherents see as the inevitable collapse of society. The forums used by REMVE to communicate make it difficult for security and law enforcement entities to proactively identify threat actors via passive open source techniques. Passive collection methods are not sufficient for seeing and understanding the threat environment on these forums.
- COVID-19 has amplified the grievances held by REMVE networks and the pandemic has served as an opportunity for them to promote their propaganda and ideology. Government responses to COVID-19 have played into racially and ethno-nationalist narratives such as those that focus on government intentions to become more authoritarian. It is likely these narratives will perpetuate long after public health measures are eased.

METHODOLOGY

This assessment provides a broad overview of the Canadian racially and ethno-nationalist motivated threat landscape (REMTL). Content to inform and support law enforcement investigations has been drawn from open sources and relevant social media accounts and websites with a suspected connection to Canada, suspicion of criminality, or the potential to impact public order events or public safety.

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IDEOLOGICALLY MOTIVATED / VIOLENT EXTREMISM SPECTRUM

Before examining the REMVE landscape, it is important to understand the terms used to describe the ideologically motivated environment.

In 2019, Canadian government agencies, including the RCMP, developed new terminology to replace terms such as “right-wing” and “left wing” in order to more accurately reflect the complexities of the ideologically motivated threat landscape. As a result, the following terms and definitions were approved for use within the RCMP:

- **Ideologically Motivated Criminality (IMC)** refers to activities perpetrated by people or groups from across the traditional left/right ideological spectrum advocating, supporting, or engaging in criminal acts.¹ The activities do not necessarily need to be violent, but are tied to a defined ideology (e.g., vandalism of a synagogue perpetuated by an individual motivated by hatred towards the Jewish community).
- **Ideologically Motivated Violent Extremism (IMVE)** refers to activities perpetrated by people or groups from across the traditional left/right ideological spectrum advocating, supporting, or engaging in violence (e.g., a mass casualty incident at a mosque perpetuated by an individual motivated by hatred towards Muslims).

Subcategories of IMC/IMVE include:²

- **Racially motivated:** Driven by a hatred or fear of a perceived threatening group such as visible minorities. For example, individuals or groups who demonstrate white supremacist beliefs, believing that the white race is superior to all others, would be considered racially motivated (e.g., the Ku Klux Klan).
- **Ethno-nationalist:** Driven by a hatred or fear of a perceived threatening group, such as ethnic minorities or immigrants, in support of Western European cultures, beliefs or worldviews. For example, individuals or groups advocating for the preservation of “traditional” Canadian values and heritage would be considered ethno-nationalist, even if they do not always associate these values with the innate superiority of the white race (e.g., an individual who opposes immigration because they believe diversity will lead to the erosion of what they perceive are Canadian traditions and values).
- **Anti-authority:** Includes anti-government, anti-law enforcement, and anarchists.
- **Gender-driven:** Includes violent misogyny (e.g., incels) and anti-LGBTQ2S+.
- **Other grievance driven ideologies:** This category may be used for emerging threats, such as environmentalism, animal rights, etc.

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- **Racially and Ethno-nationalist Motivated Threat Landscape (REMTL)** refers to all aspects of the racially and ethno-nationalist motivated extremist spectrum, itself a subset of the ideologically motivated extremist spectrum, from the non-criminal threat affecting the moral fabric of society, to the criminal threat and potentially, the national security threat.
- **Racially and Ethno-nationalist Motivated (REM)** refers to individuals or groups motivated by their racial or ethno-nationalist ideology, which may or may not have crossed the criminal threshold.
- **Racially and Ethno-nationalist Motivated Criminality (REMC)** refers to activities perpetrated by people or groups engaging in criminal acts motivated by their racially or ethno-nationalist ideology.

It should also be noted that Religiously Motivated Violent Extremism (RMVE) and Politically Motivated Violent Extremism (PMVE) also exist within the violent extremism threat landscape but do not fall under IMVE.

- **Religiously Motivated Violent Extremism (RMVE)** calls for violence as part of a spiritual struggle against a perceived immoral system, where salvation or success is only achievable through violent means (e.g., Al Qaida, Daesh).³
- **Politically Motivated Violent Extremism (PMVE)** encourages violence to achieve new political systems or new structures within already established systems. Racial or ethnic supremacy is not the focus of the extremist (e.g., World Tamil Movement).⁴

RACIALLY AND ETHNO-NATIONALIST MOTIVATED THREAT LANDSCAPE (REMTL)

The REMTL can be separated into three realms: non-criminal, criminal, and national security.



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Non-Criminal Realm (Threats to the moral fabric of society)

The non-criminal realm of the REMTL consists of threats to the moral fabric of society. This space includes expressions of racism, bigotry, misogyny and individuals engaging in lawful protests. For the most part, these types of activities are not criminal and are protected by the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. These individuals or groups may be referred to as REM individuals or groups.

The non-criminal space is perhaps the most publicly visible and widely discussed. These individuals or groups voice grievances online, display symbols (e.g., flying a controversial flag outside a home, tattoos, or clothing) or participate in public order events. This manner of public espousal of racially motivated and ethno-nationalist ideas often falls within lawfully protected behavior and beliefs, as are many of the public order events that are organized to publicize their beliefs and grievances.

The size and lifespan of these groups is constantly changing due to infighting, loss of interest, crossover in membership with other similar groups, and political changes in society, such as the decisions of governments in power or the election of new political leaders. Based on open source research and information from law enforcement partners, the online presence of individuals and groups that contribute to the threat to the moral fabric of society is far larger than their physical presence at public order events.

Within Canada, individuals and groups have shown an ability to mobilize in support of various REM causes that are not specifically Canadian in origin. For example, Donald TRUMP announced his presidential candidacy in 2015, and rhetoric surrounding his campaign generated discussion in the U.S. on topics such as race, culture, ethnicity, terrorism, and immigration. Canada experienced a spillover effect of these topics (which amplified existing Canadian interest in these issues), as well as ideologies and even group affiliations. International media coverage since 2016 has consistently highlighted public order events, the various individuals and groups that attend them and the increasing political polarization. Although TRUMP's term in office ended in 2021, the polarization that occurred from 2016-2020 continues to affect political discourse.

Since public order events are one of the most visible manifestations of REM ideologies in Canada, often the groups in attendance are perceived as a criminal or national security threat by the media and opposing groups. The majority of past public order events in Canada that involved groups or individuals espousing REM grievances, however, have largely been peaceful. Although "Canadian chapters" of U.S. groups may exist, vast differences in protest tactics, activities, and event size have been observed between the U.S. and Canadian examples. Canadian events are typically far less intense and attract significantly fewer people than those in the U.S., where violent extremists have leveraged civil unrest to conduct violence (e.g., the Capitol Hill incident in January 2021).

Altercations at public order events in Canada typically occur when there are opposing protests and it is often unclear which side has initiated the confrontation. During Canada's 44th General Election period, however, there was a significant increase in hostility displayed at some protests and in online rhetoric, particularly towards the target of the protest. Polarization in Canada is not limited to ideology but may reflect personal animosity between individuals who frequent such events or engage one another online as a result of their opposing ideologies.

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While the majority of ethno-nationalist public order events in Canada have primarily expressed anti-Muslim sentiment and opposition to immigration, these types of events also attract and tolerate the presence of racially-motivated individuals who have used the concept of “support for free speech” for their own purposes to make their extremist views more palatable to the wider public.^a

Criminal Threats

The criminal threats realm of the REMTL includes hate-motivated crimes, threats to public safety or officer safety, and illegal acts of protest as set out in the *Criminal Code*. Individuals who have crossed the criminal threshold have engaged in REMC. For those advocating, supporting, or engaging in violence, REMVE would be a more accurate description.

The RCMP Federal Policing Joint Intelligence Group (JIG) produced a report in May of 2021 (the “2021 IMVE Threat Landscape”) on the IMVE landscape within Canada, based on a comprehensive review of RCMP holdings^b. The group analyzed data from 2019 and 2020 to provide the IMVE national operating picture. Based on the JIG’s research, 48 of 94 RCMP IMVE investigative files (51%) were assessed as belonging to the REMVE category.⁵ These numbers are not representative of the national threat landscape, however, given the key role that Police of Jurisdiction (PoJ) also play in responding to hate crimes and ideologically motivated violent extremism in Canada.⁶

Media reports since 2019 have consistently focused on the increase in police-reported hate crimes, some of which have targeted specific communities as an outgrowth of the COVID-19 pandemic.^{7 8} The most current data published by Statistics Canada indicates a 37% increase (2,669 hate crimes) in police-reported hate crimes from 2019 to 2020, marking the largest number of police-reported hate crimes since 2009.⁹

National Security Threats

The national security threat realm of the REMTL consists of threats to the public, public officials, and national critical infrastructure as per section 2.c of the *CSIS Act*.

Data from the IMVE report produced by the RCMP FP JIG indicated that intelligence files considered REMVE-related ranged from probes to assess the threat posed by REMVE in a particular province, to intelligence gathering on REMVE listed terrorist entities.¹⁰ The Government of Canada’s recent

^a For example, in 2018 there was a “Canadians for Canada” protest in Ottawa held by an ethno-nationalist group known to primarily espouse anti-Muslim and anti-immigration rhetoric, but not narratives that would be considered racially motivated. One individual who attended the protest was a well-known neo-Nazi, with a documented history of racially motivated rhetoric. The organizer of the protest was aware of the individual’s racially motivated views but still tolerated the presence of the individual at the protest since he also espoused anti-immigration views. Although the organizing group was not racially motivated and did not necessarily agree with the racially motivated views espoused by the individual, they believed that, due to free speech, his attendance was acceptable.

^b The following criteria was used to identify IMVE files for analysis: a) advocacy of, support or engagement in violence; b) indicators of radicalization or mobilization to violence; c) direct or indirect threat of violence; and d) indicators of IMVE activity such as hate propaganda, recruitment, training, etc.

listings of new terrorist entities include several REMVE groups¹¹ that had a visible presence at past public order events in Canada.

THREAT LANDSCAPE – SIZE AND SCOPE

The IMCIT has assessed that the activities of racially and ethno-nationalist motivated individuals span the spectrum from legally voicing discontent to advocating or using violence. Such activities can vary from acts of vandalism, to public incitement of hatred or willful promotion of hatred, to the use of violence.

RCMP data from 2019-2020 indicates that just over half of the RCMP's IMVE investigations involved racially or ethno-nationalist motivated violent extremists.¹² This statistic is important as it allows for prioritization of analysis towards racially and ethno-nationalist motivated criminality within the greater ideologically motivated threat landscape.

It is difficult to estimate the number of individuals and groups who espouse REM-related ideologies within Canada due to the dynamic nature of the REMTL. REM networks change constantly based on infighting, societal changes, and changes in group membership. In addition, the online identifiers of REM threat actors are often unreliable, making them difficult to identify.^c

Although it is difficult to definitively confirm, REMC appears to be increasing in Canada. The "CSIS 2020 Public Report" states that "*Canadians motivated by a range of extreme ideological views have killed 21 and wounded 40 since 2014 – more than religiously motivated violent extremism (RMVE) or politically motivated violent extremism (PMVE).*"¹³ The most current data in Canada indicates that police-reported hate crimes increased by 37% from 2019-2020. Although there are several factors that can affect fluctuation in the number of reported hate crimes, the stark increase in reported incidents has brought further attention to the Canadian REMTL.

Furthermore, reporting on domestic extremism in the U.S. from March of 2021 indicates that racially or ethnically motivated violent extremists are one of the most lethal elements of domestic terrorism, with the second being militia-affiliated violent extremists.¹⁴ In addition, the assessment highlights concerns regarding transnational connections amongst REMVEs.¹⁵

GRIEVANCES, ISSUES AND THEMES

REM grievances, issues and themes reflect changes in society and major political events. The IMCIT assesses that the following current grievances, issues, and themes are the most prevalent in the REMTL today: the government, free speech and censorship, law enforcement, the left wing, the Jewish community, "white genocide", "the great replacement", Islam, and accelerationism.

^c REM individuals can often have several social media accounts under various aliases and backup accounts in anticipation of being reported, suspended or removed for their controversial content.

The Government

REM actors are fearful that the Liberal government is seeking to curtail personal freedoms (amplified by COVID-19 restrictions), ban and confiscate firearms, increase immigration levels, and transform Canada into a socialist country. Although “government” in general is a grievance held by many individuals in this space, not all of these individuals oppose organized government. Some are solely against a Liberal government because they see a perceived “leftist” agenda as aiding an immigrant invasion of Canada, resulting in white genocide and the inevitable or eventual imposition of sharia law.

Censorship

The issue of censorship has been driving discussions within Canadian REM networks since Parliament’s passing of Motion 103 in March of 2017. This Private Member’s Motion called on the Government of Canada to condemn Islamophobia, collect more useful data on hate crimes, and quell the climate of hate and fear.¹⁶ It has been one of the most sustained REM grievances visible in propaganda, both online and at public order events.

Canada-wide protests against Motion 103 began on 4 March, 2017¹⁷ and saw participation and promotion from various ethno-nationalist groups. From 2017 to 2019, anti-Motion 103 signs were prevalent at ethno-nationalist public order events. Controversy surrounded this Motion as, in addition to the perception that it threatened free speech, it was considered by some as favouring the Muslim community and rendering any criticism as “hate speech”.

Recently, Bill C-36, which seeks to target online hate speech,¹⁸ has generated similar discussions about freedom of speech within the Canadian REM space.

Law Enforcement

REM networks have a complicated relationship with authority, and discussions about law enforcement as a grievance vary greatly. Racially motivated groups that promote violent online content include anti-police narratives and images, and see law enforcement as an arm of the government that needs to be eliminated since they protect what are perceived to be corrupt institutions.

References to police can also range from praise and admiration to mixed feelings (depending on the rank of the officer or specific police service involved), or perceptions of police as pawns of the government. As an example, it is common for ethno-nationalist-related public order event organizers to thank police for their presence at protests, fueling narratives from self-described anarchists or leftists that police support white supremacy.

The “Left Wing” and “Antifa”

Perceptions of the “left wing” and “antifa” (specifically self-described anarchists and socialists) account for another grievance among REM individuals and groups. These networks perceive that

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those who fall to the political left inflate the threat posed by the “right wing”; they are more violent, yet receive less attention and criticism. The term “antifa” refers to “anti-fascist” and is not a particular group, but rather a term used to describe tactics which are often aggressive or violent, used by groups or individuals organizing against perceived fascists.¹⁹

In Canada, REM grievances against the perceived “left wing” and “antifa” have been amplified because of the “doxxing”^d of REMVEs in an effort to publicly shame them or result in termination of their employment due to altercations at protests. This grievance also feeds anti-government sentiment, as there is a perception that liberal governments implement policies to purposely appeal to the political left.

Anti-Semitism

One of the most prevalent driving motivations for REM actors today is anti-Semitism. Online discussions among REM actors in Canada frequently highlight their conspiratorial belief that the Jewish community controls the government, media, and entertainment industry. Holocaust denial is also common and ranges from complete denial to near-complete denial (i.e.: acknowledgments that the Holocaust occurred, but alleging that the number of deaths is greatly inflated and used as propaganda by the Jewish community).²⁰

“White Genocide” and “The Great Replacement”

The concept of “white genocide” refers to the alleged replacement of the white population by non-Caucasians and claims that the white race is endangered due to lowering birth rates and increasing racial diversity through immigration and interracial relationships.²¹ This “Great Replacement” is often attributed to “globalists”^e and Jews.²²

In Canada, the topic of white genocide and replacement theory has been amplified by groups that self-describe as “identitarian”.^f There is also a perception amongst proponents of these concepts that the federal government is implementing policies that erode “white culture” by welcoming large numbers of immigrants into the country. REM individuals and groups claim that immigrants are forcing Canada to adopt “foreign” cultural practices that displace Canadian heritage. The manifesto attributed to the New Zealand mosque shooter was titled, “The Great Replacement” and further popularized this theme within REM narratives.

Islam

Canadian REM perceptions of Islam coexist with grievances against the government and the concepts of “white genocide” and the “Great Replacement”. Individuals and groups who perpetuate this grievance believe that Islam is inherently violent and fear the potential for increased radicalization in areas of Canada with high populations of immigrants from Muslim countries.

^d Doxxing is maliciously publicizing personal information about an individual online.

^e The term “globalist” is often used among REMVEs as a coded anti-Semitic slur to promote conspiracies that allege that the Jewish community seeks to control the world.

^f Identitarians claim they are interested in preserving what they perceive as white culture and are often against immigration.

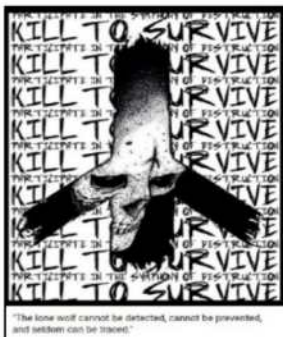
Anti-Islam sentiment is typically buried within anti-government and anti-immigration narratives. In the past, overtly anti-Islam propaganda formed the basis for the majority of the discourse observed in many Canadian ethno-nationalist groups that no longer have a visible presence via open source due to de-platforming efforts.

Accelerationism

The IMCIT assesses that the most concerning strategy amongst some REMVE networks is “accelerationism”. Accelerationists believe that contemporary society is failing under the current systems of government and that violent action must be taken to hasten its collapse.²³ Although whole groups can be accelerationist in nature, this type of narrative tends to encourage lone actor attacks. In the REMVE context, the accelerationists’ goal is the establishment of a white ethno-state following societal collapse. Accelerationist ideas embraced by REMVEs have led to real world violent activities.²⁴ (See Appendices 1 and 2 for examples of actors, groups and representative incidents.)

The most concerning REMVE online content has been identified on accelerationist s.37 s.37. These s.37 focus on disturbing themes such as violent fantasy content, racist imagery, promotion of hatred and creation of a white ethno-state, interest in military tactics, combat proficiency and weapons, homicidal ideation, the perception of unfair persecution against the white race, and images that suggest a desire to remain anonymous and evade law enforcement or doxxing.

These s.37 regularly share content praising mass killers who REMVE actors proclaim as saints and martyrs, and whose actions against perceived oppressors are believed to have successfully created chaos. The sharing and praise of previous attacks may serve to mobilize others towards violence. The images below are taken from s.37 deemed accelerationist in nature.



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COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS

Online platforms are an essential tool for REMTL actors within Canada. They allow individuals and groups to easily connect locally, nationally and internationally to exchange ideas. Lax content

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restrictions on some platforms which have less moderation or reporting mechanisms are more likely to attract discussions that are not protected by the *Canadian Charter* and which constitute criminality.

Based on open source research, the following social media platforms were identified as accessible to Canadians and used to spread REMVE ideologies:

- s.37
- VKontakte (VK)
- Gab
- Parler
- Canund
- Bitchute
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Minds
- Instagram
- Various blogs/websites

In recent years, social media platforms have come under pressure to remove extremist, dangerous or hateful content. Although REM ideas and rhetoric exist on all social media platforms, specific platforms are preferred for operating in these realms due to factors that include platform moderation, the motivation of the individual or group, perceived censorship, and security consciousness. It is important to note, however, that an individual or group's presence on a specific platform does not automatically make them extremist.

PLATFORM USE EXAMPLES

If a specific group operates in the non-criminal space and its primary motivation is to recruit and attract participation at public order events, it is more likely to operate on mainstream platforms such as Facebook or Twitter where it can reach the greatest audience.

If a group is decentralized or operates as a small cell, has vetting requirements and has intentions of spreading radical content, it may gravitate to s.37 platforms such as s.37. A platform like s.37 is less proactive in addressing hateful content, less likely to attract members of the public who would report offensive rhetoric and has options for privacy such as private channels that require active and sustained engagement to access.

The IMCIT has assessed that s.37 is the platform where the most violent REMVE content is housed. The individuals behind most s.37 and groups that share violent REMVE content are difficult to identify since users take precautions against revealing themselves. s.37 accounts require telephone numbers, but do not require the user to upload a photo or provide any additional details. (Conversely, platforms such as Facebook recently made it more difficult to create anonymous accounts and implemented measures such as requesting photo ID to prove accounts are not fraudulent.)²⁸

While there are privacy options on s.37 through joining s.37 and groups^g, users can also preview s.37 and groups, meaning that content on s.37 and groups can be seen by anyone with a s.37 account who has not subscribed to the s.37 or joined the group.^h

In addition to social media platforms, REMVE ideas are spread over blogs and websites. Access to specific areas of a website may be restricted and require registration/vetting in some form to view the content, but extreme ideas are able to reach audiences without their active engagement. While social media platforms and websites or blogs are universally available, policies to remove REMVE content are inconsistently enforced due to a lack of unified global regulations.

The IMCIT assesses that books, magazines, video games and music may also play a role in spreading extremist content, however research for this paper has only focused on the online space.

IMPACTS OF OTHER GRIEVANCE-DRIVEN IDEOLOGIES

Other ideologies can also have an effect within this space. The following grievance-driven ideologies were noted as impacting REM discussions through open source research.

Gender-Driven (violent misogyny, anti- LGBTQ2 and incel subculture)

Much of the literature (e.g., news articles, online blogs, etc.) surrounding REM suggests that involuntary celibates, or “incels” are racially motivated due to racist content observed on known incel forums. Although incel forums have racist content, which often posits a correlation between physical attractiveness and race, racism is an attribute but not a core belief of the incel subculture; these forums host a variety of individuals who self-describe as involuntarily celibate. For example, it is common for individuals on incel forums to openly identify as non-Caucasian. These individuals are not berated or considered any less of an “incel” by their fellow incels due to their race.

Although grievances espoused by incel violent extremists may cover themes that traditionally fall to the right of the ideological spectrum, individuals who identify as incels do not always espouse REM views.

Anti-Authority (includes anti-government, anti-law enforcement, anarchist)

Although anti-law enforcement and anti-government grievances can be part of REM narratives, self-described anarchists also hold anti-authority and anti-law enforcement views rooted in the belief that police abuse their power to oppress.

s.37

REM networks have used incidents of “anarchist” violence to fuel their rhetoric that the “far left” is violent, and that the “far right” receives undue media attention. Perhaps the most visible and recent example of this was observed in the months following the May 2020 police-involved death of George FLOYD which sparked civil unrest across the United States. At the time, chatter within REM networks blamed anarchists and the “far left” for the violence that occurred during the months of sustained protests. The majority of solidarity protests in Canada were peaceful, but the narrative of the violent “left” spilled over to Canadian REM networks, demonstrating how REM ideologies in Canada can be impacted by international events.

IMPACTS OF COVID-19

The full impact of COVID-19 on the REM realm as a whole is unknown. The IMCIT assesses that REM networks have taken advantage of the confusion and anxiety generated by the pandemic response to promote their worldviews.

While physical social networks have been disrupted due to public health restrictions, most online activity remains unaffected²⁹ and it is possible the extremist narratives surrounding COVID-19 will perpetuate long after public health measures are eased.

The IMCIT’s assessment of the COVID-19 impact on REM individuals and networks at present is as follows:

- The physical and social isolation caused by the pandemic can make individuals who are exposed to REM ideologies online more vulnerable, particularly individuals impacted adversely by government decisions related to COVID-19.
- Ethno-nationalist networks within Canada have historically held grievances against Liberal Party-led governments. Public health restrictions due to COVID-19 have further fueled conspiracy theories within these networks that the current Liberal government is exploiting the pandemic to limit or strip more freedoms and to generate Liberal votes, which they perceive come from immigrants.
- Racially-motivated networks view the polarization caused by government restrictions as fertile ground to promote their grievances against governments. They believe they can sow chaos and bring about the total collapse of the government and society in order to produce a new, white-dominated world.
- REM actors are well-connected globally and the COVID-19 pandemic has likely fostered these growing connections with like-minded individuals; this may in turn increase and complicate the threat in the future.³⁰ When COVID-19 travel restrictions are eased, it is possible individuals who previously communicated online may travel to network in person, which could increase the likelihood of real world threats.
- Federal and provincial responses to COVID-19 have increased discontent (observed in online discourse) towards all levels of government by individuals who were adversely impacted. At the same

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time, public trust in media, science, and medicine has been questioned. This environment has created opportunities for extreme ideas to gain mainstream traction quickly, as people may look to make sense of their frustrations through an ideology.

INTELLIGENCE CHALLENGES

The following intelligence challenges will continue to test security and law enforcement entities as navigating the REM online space is complex, dynamic and international in scope:

- As mainstream platforms move to limit content deemed offensive, threat actors may adapt to use private networks to evade law enforcement and general public attention. This will impact open source visibility and public reporting of concerning content.
- Lone actors or organizations without any formal leadership will pose challenges for law enforcement. They generally recruit through private means and operate solely online through closed networks that contain various levels of vetting, thereby limiting law enforcement's capacity to proactively identify, investigate, and disrupt threats. Attacks by lone actors who have consumed or promoted REM content in the past have had no overt affiliation to organized groups (see Appendix 1).³¹
- REM networks use coded language to avoid detection and rebrand when exposed and removed from mainstream platforms as a result of media reporting³² and doxxing.
- Extremist views and expressions of racism are not illegal. Law enforcement intelligence collection must have sufficient cause to assess an individual or group. Without ongoing assessment, however, it is difficult to proactively identify indicators of mobilization to violence.
- The REMVE landscape has not been globally defined and international terminology and standards have yet to be developed and agreed upon. This may result in misunderstanding or confusion when discussing REM issues across international boundaries.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Given the complexity of the REM environment and the broad challenges facing the community, the following recommendations are provided for law enforcement consideration:

- It would be beneficial to dedicate resources with specialized knowledge and expertise on the various ideologies, worldviews and grievances that span the ideologically motivated threat landscape in order to recognize indicators of REMC and assess REM threats reported across Canada.
- The use of undercover operator resources may assist in proactively identifying Canadian threat actors who may be active on anonymous REMVE social media channels so as to disrupt potential violent actions and provide a more accurate picture of the threat landscape for REMVE in Canada.

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- It will be critical to coordinate closely with PoJs across Canada on related reporting to develop a national operating picture of the REM landscape, given the key role they play in responding to hate crimes and ideologically motivated criminality.
- Due to the transnational nature of REM individuals and networks, it is advisable to continue fostering relationships with the Government of Canada and Allied security and intelligence community, as well as with other international law enforcement partners, to remain current with emerging REM trends and threats.

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APPENDIX 1

EXAMPLES OF REMVE “LONE ACTORS”

The following “lone actor” examples are intended to provide law enforcement with insights into the ideologically motivated grievances which have influenced these individuals, in whole or in part, to commit acts of violence.

NOTE: This list is not exhaustive. Examples were chosen based on one or more of the following:

- The individual is repeatedly referenced on REMVE accelerationist channels or glorified within REMVE forums and, as such, their violent actions may be seen as influential and aspirational;
- The event carried out by the individual generated significant chatter within REMVE networks or has attracted global discussion related to REMVE through media reporting; or
- The writings believed to be attributed to the individual specifically reference accelerationist ideas.

Personal Info.

Personal Info. killed six and injured five at the Islamic Cultural Centre of Quebec City on 29 January, 2017.^{34 35} Personal was reported to have targeted the mosque hours after learning of a Twitter message from Prime Minister TRUDEAU that welcomed refugees to Canada.³⁶ Reports indicate that Personal held anti-immigration views, feared Muslims and was interested in websites deemed as “far right”.³⁷

Personal Info. killed 11 and wounded six at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on 27 October, 2018.³⁹ Reports indicate that Personal had a history of posting anti-Semitic content online, specifically posting content critical of immigration and Jewish congregations that were hosting refugee-related events.⁴⁰

Personal Info. killed 77 and injured 319 in Oslo and Utoya, Norway on 22 July, 2011. The targets of the attack were a government district in Oslo and a Labor Party youth camp on Utoya Island.⁴² Reports indicate that writings attributed to Person held anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim grievances and that Person chose his targets because he perceived they promoted multiculturalism which was endangering Norway’s identity.⁴³ Person is celebrated within accelerationist REMVE networks for the number of casualties he caused.

Personal Info.

Personal Info. [REDACTED] killed 23 and injured 23 at a Walmart store in El Paso, Texas on 03 August, 2019.⁴⁵ Personal [REDACTED] posted a document online titled, "The Inconvenient Truth" prior to the incident, which included claims that the shooting was inspired by the mass shootings in Christchurch, New Zealand, as well as his grievances against immigrants and claims of a "Hispanic invasion".⁴⁶

Personal Info. [REDACTED] killed one and injured three inside the Chabad of Poway synagogue in Poway, California on 27 April, 2019. Reports indicate that, prior to the incident, Personal [REDACTED] posted a letter online which included anti-Semitic and white nationalist sentiment, as well as claims that the Christchurch, New Zealand and Pittsburgh synagogue attacks inspired him.⁴⁸
⁴⁹ Within REMVE networks, Personal [REDACTED] is celebrated as continuing Brenton Personal [REDACTED] mission (see Personal [REDACTED] below) and is regarded as his "1st Disciple".

Personal Info. [REDACTED] deliberately drove his vehicle into a crowd of people, killing one and injuring 30 in Charlottesville, Virginia on 12 August, 2017.⁵¹ The crowd consisted of individuals who had been protesting against the "Unite the Right" rally.⁵² News reports indicate that Personal [REDACTED] was a self-described neo-Nazi whose social media consisted of racially motivated content.⁵³ This event in Charlottesville resulted in widespread awareness, discussion, and scrutiny of the role social media can play in connecting REMVEs.

Personal Info. [REDACTED] bombed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City, killing 168 and injuring several hundred on 19 April, 1995.⁵⁵ Information about Personal [REDACTED] motivation suggest largely anti-government grievances, however news reports from the time also assert Personal [REDACTED] had a reputation for being a racist and had previously sold copies of *The Turner Diaries*,⁵⁶ a text that is regarded today as an extremist publication geared towards violent accelerationist action.⁵⁷ Personal [REDACTED] is celebrated among REMVE networks for the number of casualties he caused, as well as the financial damages and fear he inflicted on the system.

Personal Info.

Personal Info. killed nine and injured one at the Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina on 17 June, 2015. Reports indicate that Person told police he wanted the shooting to bring back segregation and start a race war.⁵⁹ In addition, writings believed to be attributed to Person indicate racially motivated grievances.⁶⁰ Person image is prevalent throughout accelerationist online channels and he is often referred to as a saint deserving of praise.

Personal Info.

Personal Info. U.S. resident flew to Halifax, Nova Scotia from Chicago, Illinois to meet up with the two other individuals and commit a mass shooting at a Halifax Mall on Valentine's Day in 2015.^{61 62 63} On 19 May, 2021, a website believed to be associated to the National Socialist Order posted letters claiming to be from Personal Info. to Personal Info. writings are considered key texts promoted by REMVEs, and Person himself is a listed terrorist entity in Canada.⁶⁴ The alleged letters included praise for the swastika symbol and rhetoric about dying for the cause of fascism.⁶⁵

Personal Info.

Personal Info.

Personal Info. killed 51 and injured 40 in two consecutive, livestreamed mass shootings in Christchurch, New Zealand at the Al Noor Mosque and Linwood Islamic Centre on 15 March, 2019.⁷⁰ Person posted a lengthy manifesto titled "The Great Replacement", expressing ethno-nationalist and eco-fascist views. His weapons were covered in names referencing mass killers and historical figures of Christendom who fought Muslims.⁷¹ Of note, Personal Info. was one of these names.⁷² Person is often celebrated as having a "high score" with respect to the number of casualties he inflicted and is praised for livestreaming his actions.

Personal Info.

Personal Info. It is alleged that Person intentionally drove his vehicle into a Muslim family in London, Ontario on 06 June, 2021. At the time of writing, the investigation is ongoing. Terrorism charges have been laid and media reports indicate that police allege the attack was a planned and premeditated act targeting Muslims.⁷⁴

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APPENDIX 2

EXAMPLES OF POTENTIAL REMVE GROUP AFFILIATIONS

In recent years, lone actors have embraced accelerationism, which calls for violence and leaderless resistance. Accelerationist groups have international reach, yet operate independently based off ideas that advocate societal breakdown through violence.⁷⁵

The following group examples are intended to provide law enforcement with insights into the ideologically motivated grievances which have influenced these groups, in whole or in part, to commit acts of violence.

NOTE: This list does not account for all incidents of violence believed to be perpetrated by individuals believed to have an affiliation with REMVE groups. The groups and incidents were chosen based on their alleged links to groups deemed accelerationist in nature, but are not an exhaustive list.

Atomwaffen Division (AWD) *(Currently a listed terrorist entity in Canada and the UK)*^{76 77}

- In 2017, **Personal Info.** who claimed he was at one time a member of AWD, allegedly killed two of his roommates and held three people hostage.^{78 79} The third roommate, **Personal Info.** who was unharmed, was also reported to be a co-founder of AWD and was sentenced to five years in prison after explosive materials found in the residence were linked to him.⁸⁰
- In 2017, **Personal Info.** allegedly killed a couple in Reston, Virginia after they had advised their daughter not to date him when they discovered neo-Nazi content on his social media accounts.⁸¹ Although not specifically linked to AWD, content on his social media included AWD references and propaganda.⁸²
- In 2018, **Personal Info.** who had allegedly attended a three-day training camp and meetings organized by AWD, was charged with murdering a 19-year-old male in Orange County, California by stabbing him 20 times.⁸³ News reports indicate that the victim was an openly gay Jewish male and that the accused was a self-described National Socialist.⁸⁴ As of this writing, the trial date for this incident has not yet been set.⁸⁵



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87

Atomwaffen Division



88

Sonnenkrieg Division (SKD) (Currently a listed terrorist entity in Australia and the UK)^{89 90}

- In 2018, it was reported that this group had called for the rape and murder of police officers.⁹¹
- In 2019, two individuals from Britain were arrested for terrorism offences for advocating for violence against Prince Harry after branding him a race traitor for marrying Meghan MARKLE, glorifying the New Zealand mosque shooting and posting propaganda on SKD social media.⁹²
- In 2019, an SKD supporter was convicted for possession of materials, which included manuals for weapons and explosives.⁹³
- In 2020, a youth from the UK was convicted for distributing a terrorist publication and preparing a terrorist act after an investigation revealed he had identified potential targets and sought to purchase explosives.⁹⁴



National Action/Scottish Dawn/NS131/System Resistance Network¹ (Proscribed terrorist entity in the UK)⁹⁸

- In 2015, [Personal Info.] from [Personal Info.] allegedly attacked a Sikh dentist with a hammer and machete because of his skin colour and shouted “white power” during the assault.⁹⁹
- In 2016, the group allegedly posted tweets glorifying violence related to the murder of [Person], violent images threatening police and views celebrating the Pulse Nightclub shooting.¹⁰⁰ [Person], a British politician who advocated for immigrant, women, and children’s rights, was killed in 2016 by a male who the media reported had “extreme right wing views”.¹⁰¹
- In 2016, [Personal Info.] from [Personal Info.] was arrested and convicted after posting images on Snapchat of a homemade pipe bomb and threats against Muslims.¹⁰²

¹ Scottish Dawn, NS131 and System Resistance Network are treated as alternative names for National Action.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/proscribed-terror-groups-or-organisations--2/proscribed-terrorist-groups-or-organisations-accessible-version>

- In 2017, **Personal Info.**, an alleged member was accused of plotting to murder UK Member of Parliament **Personal Info.** to send the state a message.¹⁰³ In addition, **Personal** was jailed for three years for stirring up racial hatred for two anti-Semitic speeches in 2016 and also for threatening to kill a law enforcement officer who had been investigating him for racial offences and child grooming offences.¹⁰⁴



The Base (*Proscribed terrorist entity in Canada and the UK*)^{106 107}

- In 2020, members **Personal Info.** were arrested for allegedly plotting an attack during a gun rights rally in Richmond, Virginia.¹⁰⁸ **Personal** was a **Personal Info.**, who illegally entered the U.S. after Canadian authorities raided his home.¹⁰⁹



Feuerkrieg Division (*Proscribed terrorist entity in the UK*)¹¹³

- In 2019, **Personal**, a U.S. male linked to the group, admitted to a firearms charge and acknowledged he had discussed setting fire to a synagogue or attacking a bar catering to LGBTQ2 customers in Las Vegas, Nevada.¹¹⁴
- In 2019, **Personal Info.**, an individual linked to the group in Fort Riley, Kansas was sentenced to two and a half years in prison for distributing information about building a bomb.¹¹⁵
- In 2020, a 13-year-old believed to be the creator of the group was arrested in Estonia. According to news reports, the individual discussed targeting a Jewish school and killing Jewish children.¹¹⁶

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- In 2019, an alleged member was arrested after a bomb which failed to explode was found outside an office building in Vilnius, Lithuania.¹¹⁷

Feuerkrieg Division



118



119

Vorherrschaft Division

- In 2020 **Personal Info.** was killed in a shootout with police in Belton, Missouri. According to reports, **Persona** was planning on using a car bomb to blow up a hospital caring for COVID-19 patients.¹²⁰ **Persona** was allegedly active on online channels linked to the Vorherrschaft Division and the National Socialist Movement.¹²¹



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Information cut-off date: 2021-11-18

Approved by:

Director, Directorate of Strategic Intelligence
RCMP Federal Policing National Intelligence

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